



# **Rural Development Conference**

**Remarks by Gov. Jan Brewer**

**Friday, October 15, 2010**

*Humphreys Ballroom, High Country Conference Center in Flagstaff*

It's great to be in Flagstaff today – a fitting place to celebrate excellence in rural economic development and the investments advancing regional economies across our great state.

I'm pleased to be making history in economic development.

My new Arizona Commerce Authority brought together the leadership of the Governor, the Speaker of the House and the Senate President -- and thirty-five of our top leaders - within both the private sector and academia -- all with one express purpose: to advance the global competitiveness of our state and the economic prosperity we all seek.

I promised the people of Arizona I would get Arizona back on track by creating quality jobs, attracting high-growth industries, and advancing our competitive position in the global economy.

I've committed thirty-seven million dollars for economic development activity this year.

I committed twenty million dollars for a jobs closing fund -- and we've attracted over one billion dollars in new capital investment.

We've created nearly eight-thousand jobs - and we're investing in our PEOPLE to make sure they have the skills to compete in these new jobs.

We've secured important firms ranging from Amazon and eBay to Suntech Power Holdings and Power-One.

Our aggressive effort to become the solar capitol of the world is strengthened by being named the number- one state in the nation for solar energy industry and solar manufacturing by *Business Facilities* magazine.

And, while we've been showing that Arizona is a global leader in solar manufacturing, earlier this week we announced we're going to be a leader in solar GENERATION as well.

We announced that San Diego-based Semptra Generation, is going to build a 150 megawatt photovoltaic solar generation plant near Arlington -- making a capital investment of five hundred million dollars now -- with the anticipation of investing two billion dollars at full build out, when it will be one of the largest photovoltaic solar generation plants in North America!

Over the past year, we've announced many solar firms that have elected to invest in Arizona.

These things didn't just happen. They didn't just fall from the sky. This is a result of the vision, strategies and environment I created through the Arizona Commerce Authority -- advancing our state to a level of success few could have imagined when I took office not so long ago.

Ultimately, this is about diversifying our economy -- exporting our greatest natural resource to secure billions of dollars in capital investment and jobs for Arizona.

I'm committing ten million dollars in matching incentives to make sure Science Foundation Arizona is re-connected with the state -- propelling projects -- Science, Technology, Engineering and Math -- STEM education -- along with graduate research fellowships.

I'm investing in our innovation accelerators and bridging the commercialization financing gap.

We're going to help promising early-stage companies in fast-growth, high-income export industries advance beyond research and development -- into technology transfer.

This will lead to job creation in home-grown innovative companies.

In addition, I re-launched the state's job training program -- because many of you told me how critical it is to grow jobs and invest in Arizona's workforce.

I made a promise -- and now I've delivered a model to advance our state.

This model for economic development will build a stronger foundation so that our children and their children enjoy unbounded opportunities in an economy that is stable, predictable and reliable, as Arizona heads into its second century.

I'm also committed to advancing the rural areas of our state, establishing necessary infrastructure, and helping these areas compete for quality jobs in the global economy.

That's why I established a Rural Business Advisory Council. This council will identify business development best practices to advance rural communities across our entire state and create more quality jobs.

The council will make recommendations to the Arizona Commerce Authority board, and it will oversee the use of funds I'm committing to advance community projects across our state – creating the jobs of our future.

Today, I'm pleased to introduce some of the business leaders from Arizona's 15 counties who will serve on this council:

Eddie Browning – Chairman of the Council

Marshall Whitmire

Becky Nutt (Not at the Conference)

Donald Wilson

Dave Bentler

Gary Kellogg

Bob Riley

Jim Ferguson

Tim Kanavel

Travis Bard

Steve Rutherford

Julie Engel

Levi N. Esquerra

We must have the hands-on experts from our rural areas – people who understand the unique approaches and challenges of growing businesses and creating jobs.

Last fiscal year – two hundred and twenty six thousand dollars were invested in rural economic development through Commerce grant programs.

But, that's not enough. It's time to make a serious commitment to rural Arizona.

So, I've dedicated two million dollars through my economic development stimulus funds for a new approach to rural issues.

My Commerce Authority and the Rural Business Advisory Council will work with Arizona's Council of Governments to identify local projects that will lead to job creation.

Leveraged with local resources we can truly begin to advance local economies, sustain businesses, increase revenue and create jobs.

And, let me make it clear -- the Arizona Commerce Authority will continue to provide ongoing support for rural economic development with an emphasis on business attraction, expansion and retention.

With this comprehensive approach, Arizona's diverse regions will identify unique and critical economic development opportunities -- and have access to funding to make a difference.

I have a passion for our rural communities, our rural businesses -- truly a fabric of our state.

I'm committed to diversifying economies, bringing in new business, and -- most importantly -- creating jobs for Arizonans.

I look forward to celebrating the success we will accomplish in the year ahead, and I thank you for working with me for the good of our great state.

Thank you.